

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAID ET EEC  
SUBJ: VISIT OF EEC REPRESENTATIVE - CLAUDE CHEYSSON

REF: WILSON/FOLEY MEMCON OF JUNE 24, 1976

1. SUMMARY: MR. CLAUDE CHEYSSON HEADED A 3-MAN  
EEC DEL TO ETHIOPIA MAY 18-20. MR. CHEYSSON  
MET WITH PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU HAILE-MARIAM AND OTHER  
HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS WHILE HERE. DISCUSSION CENTERED  
ON ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND EEC CONTRI-  
BUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT. MR. CHEYSSON SIGNED A 30 MILLION  
BIRR AID ACCORD DURING THE VISIT. RELATIONS WERE  
CORDIAL AND THE VISIT RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE PRESS COVERAGE.  
END SUMMARY

2. MR. CLAUDE CHEYSSON, SENIOR EEC REP FOR DEVELOPMENT,  
VISITED ETHIOPIA 18-20 MAY. MR. CHEYSSON  
WAS WELL RECEIVED BY PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU HAILEAMARIAM  
AND OTHER HIGH LEVEL ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS. VISIT WAS  
PROMINENTLY FEATURED ON ETHIOPIAN HERALD FRONT PAGES  
MAY 21 AND 22. MR. FILORI, OF THE ADDIS ABABA EEC  
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OFFICE, REPORTED MR. CHEYSSON VERY PLEASED WITH HIS  
RECEPTION AND THE CONVERSATIONS HE HAD WITH ETHIOPIANS.  
THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND EEC WERE  
MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES. MENGISTU SPOKE ABOUT HIS-  
TORICALLY CLOSE TIES. MR. CHEYSSON SAID THE EEC HAS  
A POLICY OF NON-INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OF NATIONS TO WHICH IT GIVES AID. EACH NATION HAS A

RIGHT TO CHOOSE ITS OWN ROAD TO DEVELOPMENT.

3. WHILE HERE MR. CHEYSSON SIGNED A 30 MILLION BIRR AID ACCORD FOR A RURAL WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. THIS IS PART OF THE 280 MILLION BIRR WHICH WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ETHIOPIA OVER A FOUR-YEAR SPAN. SINCE THE EEC PROGRAMMING MISSION WAS COMPLETED IN JUNE, 1976 ALMOST 100 MILLION BIRR IN AID ACCORDS HAVE BEEN SIGNED. MR. CHEYSSON NOTED THAT ALMOST ALL EEC AID TO ETHIOPIA WAS ON A GRANT BASIS. ANOTHER AGREEMENT FOR 35 MILLION BIRR SET ASIDE FOR THE AMIBARA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED SHORTLY. THE ETHIOPIAN GOVT HAS DETERMINED AID PRIORITIES AND GAVE EEC A LIST OF PROJECTS IT WOULD LIKE FINANCED. EEC THEN CHOSE THE PARTICULAR PROJECTS IT WANTED TO FUND. OVER HALF OF THE AID BEING FINANCED BY EEC IS FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

4. DURING A LENGTHY BRIEFING OF MR. CHEYSSONS, COL. DR. FELLEKE GEDLE-GHIORGIS, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, LISTED ETHIOPIA'S DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AS FOLLOWS: "THE GOVERNMENT GIVES PRIORITY TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY AGRICULTURE, WHICH EMPLOYS THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE". PROJECTS AIMED AT IMPROVING RURAL LIFE AND "MULTI-PURPOSE PACKAGE PROGRAMMES WHICH PROVIDE SUPPORT TO SMALL HOLDER FARMERS THROUGH EXTENSION, LIVESTOCK AND RANGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS," FISHERY DEVELOPMENT, MULTI-PURPOSE IRRIGATION SCHEMES AND RESETTLEMENT. HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADDED THAT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO CONSTRUCT FEEDER AND RURAL ROADS. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WILL CONCENTRATE MAINLY ON INDUSTRIES WHICH MANUFACTURE AGRICULTURAL INPUTS. THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW TIMES ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS HAVE PUBLICLY DISCUSSED SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES.

5. DURING A FINAL PRESS BRIEFING MR. CHEYSSON NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL AS WELL AS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND POINTED OUT THAT 10 PERCENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT FUNDS UNDER THE LOME CONVENTION HAVE BEEN SET ASIDE FOR REGIONAL PROJECTS. ETHIOPIAN AND KENYA ARE PLANNING A PROJECT ALONG LAKE RUDOLPH AND THE OMO TO DEVELOP TOURISM.

6. COMMENT: A. EMBASSY OFFICIALS OF EEC COUNTRIES AND OFFICIALS OF THE EC OFFICE IN ADDIS ABABA WERE PLEASED WITH THE RECEPTION ACCORDED MR. CHEYSSON AND THE EX-

TENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE OF HIS VISIT. THE EPMG IS CLEARLY INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE EEC ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT RELUCTANT TO ATTACK INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES WHEN THAT SUITS ITS PURPOSES. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS OR AID EVEN THOUGH ETHIOPIA IS RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS OF BILATERAL AID FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE FRG. THE EEC EXPECTS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA TO CONTINUE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IN FACT, EMBASSY HAS HEARD FROM EEC AMBASSADORS THAT CHEYSSON HAD DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING PROBLEMS EEC AMBASSADORS HAVE IN DEALING WITH EPMG AFTER HIS FAVORABLE RECEPTION HERE AND SOME AMBASSADORS HAVE TOLD US THEY HAD A HARD TIME TRYING TO PUT LOCAL SCENE IN PERSPECTIVE FOR CHEYSSON AFTER HIS CORDIAL RECEPTION BY EPMG.

B. AS FOR THE REASONS BEHIND EPMG'S WARM RECEPTION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHEYSSON, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT EPMG WANTED TO REAFFIRM ITS NON-ALIGNED IMAGE BY SHOWING ITS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT ASSISTANCE FROM A WESTERN INSTITUTION, EVEN AFTER EVENTS OF FEB 3 AND INCREASINGLY CLOSE TIES TO USSR. MAURICE FOLEY, EEC DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF DEVELOPMENT WAS ALSO ACCORDED SIMILAR TREATMENT DURING HIS VISIT IN JUNE, 1976, AND EPMG MAY HAVE WISHED TO STRESS ITS CONTINUED INTEREST IN EC AND LOME CONVENTION. EC POLICY MAKES THIS EASY FOR EPMG TO DO AS BOTH FOLEY AND CHEYSSON SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED DISCUSSION OF SENSITIVE EPMG POLICIES ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL MATTERS. INDEED, CHEYSSON NOTED PUBLICLY EACH NATION'S "RIGHT TO CHOOSE ITS OWN ROAD TO DEVELOPMENT." ALSO EC FUNDS FOR ETHIOPIA ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY ON GRANT BASIS AND EPMG STILL HAS MANY SENIOR OFFICIALS WHO SHOP AROUND FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE DEAL FOR ETHIOPIA. CONTINUING RELATIONS WITH WORLD BANK ARE ANOTHER INSTANCE OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS. AS WE SEE IT, GOOD EC-EPMG RELATIONS ARE BENEFICIAL FOR US AS WELL AS OTHER WESTERN NATIONS AS EC INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA'S DEVELOPMENT HELPS KEEP OPEN THE DOOR TO THE WEST.

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## Message Attributes

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